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Sent: 8/4/2020 5:39:33 PM
To: Humphrey, Leslie [Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov]; Stoy, Alyse [Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: bi-monthly calls with KDHE and IDNR

Take particular note of Diamond Vogel. We have had a challenging relationship with the state on that.

Let me know if you have any questions.

From: Humphrey, Leslie <Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Hoefer, David <Hoefer.David@epa.gov>
Subject: bi-monthly calls with KDHE and IDNR

Hi Dave –

Next Wednesday, I have calls with KDHE and IDNR and there are several SPFD sites on the agenda:

For KDHE, Caney residential yards and Cherokee Zinc

- **Caney Residential Yards Site (Caney, KS)**—The site is located in southeastern Kansas and was proposed for listing on the NPL in November 2019. Historic smelting operations resulted in the contamination of residential yards and other properties. EPA addressed contaminated soils at 300+ residential properties and several schools through removal actions. EPA’s remedial program is in the early stages of conducting the RI/FS for this fund-lead site. The state of Kansas supports the action and the NPL proposal. (Danny)
- **Cherokee Zinc (Weir, KS)** – This site is a former lead and zinc smelting site located in SE Kansas about 10 miles SW of Pittsburgh. Weir has a population of around 700. The site was discovered as part of KDHE’s targeting of former smelter sites in the state has been involved with an EPA time-critical removal action which has been cleaning up lead-contaminated residential properties since late 2017. The action memo for this removal action has been amended twice to obtain increases to the amount of \$, and time to conduct the removal action because of delays due to weather, lack of EPA staffing (during the 2018 hurricane season), and the increasing number of residential properties identified as being contaminated above action levels. The site is in the process

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been working with Joe Dom at KDHR on this. **Work update:** A total of 66 properties have been identified as requiring remediation to date. Before we resumed work under the removal action on July 6th, 16 properties had been cleaned up. Since July 6th, an additional 3 properties have been completed and 4 properties are currently in progress. We have funding to do up to 20 properties in this phase (not including the 16 that were cleaned up prior) and are targeting properties with young children. This has been challenging, however, because many of the targeted residences are rental properties with high turnover, so some that were previously targeted because of the presence of small children no longer have children, and others now have children that did not previously. Work in this phase will continue until one of the following occurs: 1) we complete clean-up of 20 properties in this phase; 2) our remaining funding for the removal action runs out; or 3) until October 1st. There is approximately \$700,000 remaining for this removal action. SEMD has decided to not work past October 1st this

year because weather delays in the previous 2 years have led to significant delays and expenses on this removal action. (Danny)

For IDNR, Dico, Vogel, PCE Former Dry Cleaner, Hwy 3 PCE, Clinton Engines

- **Diamond Vogel Superfund Site (Maurice, IA)** – On 2/12/2020 EPA (Jared Pessetto, Mary Peterson, and Susan Fisher) participated in a meeting with IDNR (the lead agency) and Diamond Vogel (the site owner) at IDNR's office in Des Moines. EPA requested this conference to improve the parties' relationship, which had deteriorated due to a perceived lack of transparency and PRP participation in the recent Five-Year Review process. These interactions are well-documented in a series of letters between the EPA and Diamond Vogel before and after issuance of the FYR in September 2019. In sum, Diamond Vogel communicated persistent disagreement on issues related to the groundwater point of compliance, adequacy of institutional controls, and site characterization. At the February meeting, EPA offered to prepare a memorandum to correct and clarify several issues in the FYR. To regain trust, EPA also agreed to offer Diamond Vogel an opportunity to provide preliminary feedback on the memorandum, which EPA received from Diamond Vogel last Friday, 7/30. Concurrent with this exchange, EPA provided support-agency comment to IDNR on two technical deliverables submitted by Diamond Vogel. Diamond Vogel received EPA's comments from IDNR in June, and EPA received response to these comments on 7/30. In advance of that submission, Diamond Vogel's outside counsel communicated continued frustration with the granularity of EPA's comments. This complaint was previously voiced by Diamond Vogel at the parties' February conference, at which EPA agreed that the depth of its review of deliverables should reflect its role as support agency. IDNR program staff likely sympathizes with Diamond Vogel's perspective, so this is one concern that may be voiced by IDNR management during coordination calls. (Jared)
- **PCE Former Dry Cleaner (Atlantic, IA)**— Prior dry cleaning operations at this Fund-lead, NPL site resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. Removal actions addressed the majority of the contamination, and the

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by the end of FY20. Regular consultation with the state of Iowa has occurred throughout these processes, and the state supports the proposed remedial action.

- **Highway 3 PCE (LeMars, IA)** – This involves a PCE groundwater contamination plume that comes from a currently operating dry cleaning site in downtown Le Mars, Iowa. The groundwater plume was traced back to historic operations at the Ideal Cleaners dry cleaning business. The current owner did not have the ability to pay for removal costs, but did pay for upgrades to the facility to prevent any further contamination. The site has been in the removal program since 2011 and, to date, 20 VI mitigation systems have been installed in commercial and residential buildings downgradient of the groundwater plume. The source area has not yet been addressed, however, because the back portion of the dry cleaner building needs to be knocked down in order to excavate the source area. A neighboring property owner is interested in purchasing the property as a BFPP and turning it into a parking lot and has agreed to EPA knocking down the building to do the response action. The property has been on the market for a while but no other buyers have been interested to date. Unfortunately, the neighbor's business has been suffering due to COVID and so progress has slowed on their purchasing of the

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- **Clinton Engines (Maquoketa, IA)**—This is the location of a former small engine manufacturing facility that was referred by IDNR to EPA in early 2020 for a removal assessment and action. During manufacturing operations, various solvents, including TCE, were utilized and released into the environment. The city purchased the property in the early 2000s and subsequently transferred a portion of it to the local historical society. The entire

property has been enrolled in Iowa's voluntary cleanup program (Land Recycling Program) since 2008. EPA's removal program has conducted sampling in the residential area surrounding the former factory. The results to date have not shown there to be impacts that would warrant an emergency removal action. Additional sampling is ongoing. IDNR currently supports EPA action. (Danny)

I know what is going on with Dico but wondering if you can send me a couple of lines on the others so I have some idea where we're at with those? Thank you!

Have a good weekend –

Leslie

Leslie Humphrey
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